

T H E C L E V E L A N D M U S E U M O F A R T

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EXHIBITION REVIEWS MUSEUM'S YEARLY COLLECTING ACTIVITIES

The ninth annual YEAR IN REVIEW exhibition opens November 29 at The Cleveland Museum of Art with 132 works of art acquired by the Museum during the past fifteen months. The exhibition is marked by a number of outstanding works, including a major Rembrandt painting, and two rare and important European ivory sculptures, and what is often considered to be the most important engraving in the history of art. The YEAR IN REVIEW is the Museum's only regularly scheduled exhibition in addition to the MAY SHOW: as the latter reflects current work by regional artists, the YEAR IN REVIEW provides a public summing up of the outcome of primary and perennial curatorial activities --- the pursuit, collection and exhibition of art objects of major importance and quality.

The most outstanding acquisition for the period was a fine late Rembrandt painting of AN OLD MAN PRAYING, executed by the master in 1661. Acquisition of the painting, announced early in the summer, brought the Museum's Rembrandt collection of paintings to four.

Including the Rembrandt, the Painting department increased its collection by 23 works; among these were a Guercino tondo, landscapes by John F. Kensett and Jacob van Ruisdael, a portrait of CARDINAL DUBOIS by Hyacinthe Rigaud and a John Quidor genre canvas, THE DEVIL AND TOM WALKER.

Of special note among the many prints and drawings acquired is the fifteenth century engraving depicting a BATTLE OF NAKED MEN by the Italian artist Antonio Pollaiuolo, often considered the most important engraving in the history of art. The Cleveland impression appears to be unique.

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In the Decorative Arts department 44 additions, ranging from American and European cultures to African, Byzantine and Mayan civilizations, were made. The Museum is especially fortunate to have acquired two exquisite ivories: one, THE DESCENT FROM THE CROSS, executed in 1653 by Adam Lenckhardt (a German active in Austria); the other, an Ottonian plaque of CHRIST BLESSING AND BUSTS OF APOSTLES from Germany, about 970 A.D. Also notable are two French ALTAR ANGELS, hewn from walnut during the third quarter of the thirteenth century, and a nine foot tall Mayan relief, which was once part of a limestone stele made during the seventh or eighth centuries A.D. The YEAR IN REVIEW is also marked by an André-Charles Boulle CLOCK (ca. 1695), a gift to the Museum by family and friends of Emery May Holden Norweb (President of the Museum) and Raymond Henry Norweb in honor of their fiftieth wedding anniversary, and a pre-Columbian turquoise mosaic mask, produced about 1200 A.D.

Ranking high in importance among the 27 objects in the Oriental department are a RAKSHASA, a Cambodian stone sculpture from the Khmer civilization (10th century) and a Ma Yuan (Chinese, active ca. 1190-ca. 1224) hanging scroll. Also added were a Japanese DISH designed by Ogata Korin and produced by Ogata Kenzan about 1700; a Yüan dynasty handscroll by Chao Chung (Chinese, 1279-1368) and a Ming dynasty hanging scroll by Ch'en Hung-shou (also Chinese, 1598-1652).

Of the items added to the Egyptian and Classical collection, the most important is the Greek bronze and silver MIRROR REST IN THE FORM OF A SIREN, cast in Corinth about 475 B.C.

Unlike the great majority of works in the YEAR IN REVIEW most of those acquired by the Contemporary department have already been displayed. Notable artists represented include Lee Bontecou (UNTITLED construction), Franz Kline (ACCENT GRAVE) and David Smith (PILGRIM).

All the works mentioned here, and others, will be on view in the Museum's special exhibition galleries through December 31, 1967. An illustrated catalog accompanies the exhibition.